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1972-1973 Activity Summary

Northern Development and Native Affairs Office

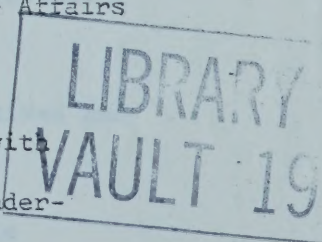
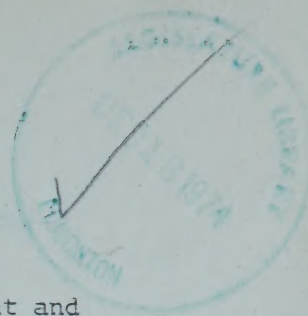
During the 1972/73 period, the Northern Development and Native Affairs office devoted much of its efforts to establishing the framework for a comprehensive approach to the social and economic development requirements of Northern Alberta.

During the current session funds have been appropriated to establish a small but highly specialized Northern Development Group. This group will chart a northern development course which will give priority to the social consequences of development. The objective, of course, is to ensure that the economic development of the North will directly benefit the people of the North.

To ensure that the efforts of all government departments are marshalled to meet the needs of Northern Alberta, the longer range planning activities of the Northern Development Group will be handled through the Office of Program Co-ordination. Because most of the disadvantaged people in the North are of native origin, the Northern Development Group will work closely with the Native Affairs component.

Closer working relationships will also be sought with native groups and associations, with the goal of improved understanding of their needs and hopes.

During 1972/73 the Northern Development office provided financial support to the Research Council of Alberta to carry out geographical mapping work in North Eastern Alberta. To be completed





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in three or four years, this work will provide valuable information on the mineral development potential of the region.

Data resulting from research inventory investigations are vital to development planning. The office will work to ensure that the development potential of the major resources of the North is accurately inventoried.

Several meetings were held during the year with representatives of major industries to review their labor requirements and to consider increased employment of people of native origins.

The principle contacts were made with:

Procter and Gamble Ltd. - Grande Prairie

Syncrude Canada Ltd. - Fort McMurray

Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. - Fort McMurray

McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd. - Grande Cache

North American Stud Co. Ltd. - Slave Lake

Shell Canada Ltd. - Peace River

Some of the more significant accomplishments in provincial native affairs would include the following:

- land tenure settlement with the Grande Cache natives and the Big Horn Stony Indians
- the speedy provision of water wells for the Metis settlement of Janvier
- the expansion of the school lunches program to areas of Northern Alberta beyond Janvier where the program was initiated



- Metis housing construction should commence in a few weeks following meetings with the Metis Association of Alberta and its community member groups. A complimentary water wells and water supply program, through the Department of The Environment, has been tied into the Metis housing program.

A continuing series of meetings and conferences with various native organizations have been most successful. The success of these discussions is reflected in the government's continued funding support for such groups as the Metis Association of Alberta, the Alberta Native Communications Society, the Alberta Native Friendship Centres, the Southern Alberta Indian News Media, and the Native Counselling Services of Alberta, to name just a few.

The success of our conferences and meetings is further demonstrated in our efforts to make the government more accessible to our native peoples and in the government's improved services to them.

The important liaison and co-ordinating role played by this office in Native Affairs cannot be over-emphasized. The need for that role has become even more evident with the increased activity of government departments in the social and economic affairs of Alberta's native citizens.









